REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-16 are currently pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Win et al.* (US 6,161,139) in view of *Shrader et al.* (US 6,374,359). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

For a procedural standpoint, Claims 1-7 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Win et al.* (US 6,182,142) in view of *Shrader et al.* (US 6,374,359) in a previous non-final Office Action dated February 27, 2004. Applicants responded to the non-final Office Action without amending any claims. Since the Examiner introduced a new ground of rejection (*i.e.*, by citing a new prior art reference *Win et al.* (US 6,161,139)), the current Final Office Action is considered as premature under MPEP § 706.07(a).

On merits, Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 10) recites a step of "storing a encryption key pair having a private key and a public key in a protected storage device within said data processing system" and a step of "in response to the receipt of a cookie generated by an application from a remote server, encrypting said cookie with said public key." Thus, according to the claimed invention, in response to the receipt of a cookie originated from a remote server, a data processing system encrypts the cookie with a public key previously stored within the data processing system. Basically, the cookie encryption of the present invention is performed at the data processing system of a user (or client).

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that *Win* teaches that "the Authentication Client Module reads the user's roles from the Registry Server 108. It then encrypts and sends this information in a "cookie" to the user's browser." Applicants agree with the Examiner that *Win* teaches the cookie being encrypted in Registry Server 108. Since it is clear from Figure 1 of *Win* that Registry Server 108 is part of a secure intranet (col. 4, lines 33-34) and not part of the user's browser or the user's data processing system, *Win* does not teach

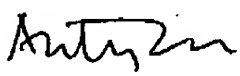
or suggest the cookie encryption being performed at the data processing system of a user, as claimed. *Shrader* does not teach or suggest the cookie encryption being performed at the data processing system of a user either. Because the claimed invention recites novel features that are not found in the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-7 and 10-16 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1 and 10 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of this application, please charge it against Deposit Account No. **50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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